



BIOGRAPHIC DATA

CHILE

General of the Army Augusto PINOCHET Ugarte
March 1974

(U) NAME: General of the Army Augusto PINOCHET Ugarte (pea-noh-CHEY), Army.

(U) POSITION: President of the Government Junta, since 12 September 1973 and Commander in Chief of the Army, since 24 August 1973.



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(U) While attending the inauguration of GEN (Ret) Ernest GEISEL (President of Brazil since 15 Mar 74), GEN PINOCHET held formal secretive talks with GEN Hugo BANZER (President of Bolivia since 23 Aug 71) in an attempt to improve Chile/Bolivia relations. Diplomatic relations were broken between Chile and Bolivia 12 years ago and it is possible that they may be reestablished.

(U) Internal: Typical of most Chilean military, GEN PINOCHET remained out of politics and loyal to the constitutionally elected government (Popular Unity Coalition of the late Marxist President ALLENDE) prior to the coup. After a long period of strife, strikes and chaos, on 11 Sep 73, GEN PINOCHET, with the other armed forces commanders, successfully carried out a coup d'etat against the ALLENDE government. He stated that the armed forces were compelled to act because the government was leading the country to chaos and that the country was in moral, economic and social danger. Indicating that the decision had not been reached joyfully, PINOCHET noted, "We the Commanders in Chief have reached the summit of our careers. We could have looked forward to retirement and it would have been easier for us to remain quiet - however, since the beginning of the year, ALLENDE talked about dialogue but his policy did not change. He said he was opposed to civil war, and yet at his Tomas Moro residence as well as at the Presidential Palace there were veritable arsenals."

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(U) "Everything was ready for a civil war. Ours was a preventive action to ward off a revolutionary action." GEN PINOCHET said that the government's main goal was to return the country to economic well-being and civilian control once it has completely recovered. He did not specify any date; however, PINOCHET told the miners at El Teniente copper mine in late Feb 74 that it would be at least five years before elections could be held in Chile.

(U) Birth: 25 Nov 1915, Valparaiso, Chile.

(U) Language: Native Spanish, some French and English.

(U) Religion: Roman Catholic.

(U) Decorations: Colombian Order of Merit General Jose Maria Cordoba. Ecuadoran Abdon Calderon Star (Gold). Chilean Military Star of the Armed Forces (Military Star, Star for Military Merit, Grand Star for Military Merit); Goddess Minerva; Minerva Medal.

(U) CIVIL EDUCATION: Secondary School. Attended a course on Judicial and Social Science at the University of Chile for 2 years (dates not known).

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(U) CAREER:

- 1933-1936 - Cadet, Military Academy, Santiago. Commissioned Infantry.
- 1937-1938 - Assigned to 6th "Chacabuco" Infantry Regiment. Promoted to 2LT, 1937; to 1LT, 1938.
- 1939 - Assigned to 2d "Maipo" Infantry Regiment.
- 1940-1941 - Student, Infantry School, San Bernardo.
- 1942-1946 - Instructor, Army War College, Santiago. Promoted to CPT, 1946.
- 1947 - Assigned to 5th "Carampangue" Infantry Regiment, Iquique.
- 1948 - Government delegate to the Schwager Coal Mines (merged with Lota Coal Mines in 1963), located near Concepcion. Assigned to 9th Infantry Regiment.
- 1949-1951 - Student, Command and General Staff Course, Army War College.
- 1952 - Assigned to Military Academy. Promoted to MAJ, 1952.
- 1953 - Operations Officer, 4th "Rancagua" Infantry Regiment, Arica.
- 1954 - Instructor, Army War College.
- 1955 - Aide to Subsecretary for Army, Ministry of National Defense.
- 1956-1959 - Instructor, Military Geography, Ecuadoran Army War College, Quito.
- 1960 - Staff Officer, Headquarters, 1st Infantry Division, Antofagasta. Promoted to LTC, 23 Jan 60.
- 1961-1963 - Commander, 7th "Esmeralda" Infantry Regiment, Antofagasta.
- 1964-1968 - Deputy Commandant, Chilean Army War College, from Jan 64. Member, US and Canal Zone orientation tour, Jan-Feb 65. Promoted to COL, 23 Jan 66.
- 1968-1969 - Chief of Staff, 2d Army Division, Santiago, from Jan 68. Participated in official tour of US, including the Canal Zone, Jan-Feb 68. Promoted to Brig General, Dec 68.
- 1969-1971 - Commander, Santiago Garrison, Mar 71-Jan 72.
- 1972-1973 - Chief of Staff of the Army from 1 Jan 72. Acting Commander in Chief of the Army from 9 Aug 73. Served as Acting Commander in Chief of the Army, Nov 72-Mar 73, Apr-Jun 73. Visited the Canal Zone and Mexico, Sep 72.
- 1973-Present - Appointed Commander in Chief of the Army, 24 Aug 73 and President of Government Junta, 12 Sep 73 (retains title of CINC Army). Promoted to General of the Army, 24 Aug 73. Attended presidential inauguration in Brazil on 15 Mar 74.